

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

March 3, 2011  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E -112

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peg English, Richard Englund, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Merle Keeney, Hannah Kimball, Eileen Rasnack, Lynne Robinson, Berta Seltzer, Cindy Sharek, Diana Thompson, Blake Werner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jullie Gray, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman

STAFF PRESENT: Cathy VonWald, Alex O'Reilly, Department of Parks and Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Christina Monahan, UW student; Denise Sersas, Elder Adult & Day Services Manager; Patti Mann

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Rasnack who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Jullie Gray, Bob Megargel, and Bill Merriman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 3, 2011

**Motion to approve the minutes as written was carried unanimously.**

2011-2012 HUMAN SERVICES NEEDS UPDATE DISCUSSION

Alex O'Reilly from the Human Services Division stated that every two years the Human Services Division publishes the City of Bellevue Human Services Needs Update. They are currently working on the next edition that will come out in early January 2012. The new 2010 census information will be included. Gwen Rousseau from Planning & Community Development provides this information and actually writes this section of the report. She will be coming to the Network on Aging meeting in April.

Ms. O'Reilly passed out the draft timeline for the upcoming needs update. We start a year ahead collecting data and are in the process of connecting with the community to see what the top human services needs are. The city contracts with an agency to do a phone survey and this year there is a new online option component. The way that the online option works is that a letter is sent out to address-based random addresses to have them complete the survey online or to receive a call. This will reach the people that no longer have land lines any more.

We also do community conversations with different groups in the community that are like mini focus groups. We try to reach all ages & groups in the community to see what their top human services needs are. In 2009 we did twenty-two community conversations with different groups in the community. We try to make it easy for the groups and so will meet

with groups during their regular meeting times. The City Council and Human Services Commission will also let us know what groups they think we should include. We also do some “specific populations” groups which include older adult groups. I would like to know if you have ideas of different older adult groups we should contact. I would then contact them and set up a meeting with them.

Mr. Katz suggested the Chinese Community Group that meets at the North Bellevue Community Center. Mr. Englund was asked if his group of retired engineers might be a good group to meet with. He stated that there are 15 of them but he didn’t know if they would be representative of the whole community. Ms. O’Reilly stated that 15 would be great and we need to meet with all sorts of different groups. Ms. VonWald recommended two groups that meet at North Bellevue Community Center: the Produce Group and NARC (National Association of Retired Federal Employees) group.

Ms. O’Reilly stated that they are working with other eastside cities to get information from across the eastside. Some of the other eastside cities human services commissioners will be included in some of the community conversations.

Ms. Thompson had four suggestions for groups to meet with: 1) Senior Net, 2) YMCA on Bel-Red Road (Shary Palmer is the contact), 3) the Youth Commission (Ms. O’Reilly stated that she will be meeting with Terry Smith, Asst. Parks Director and Helena Stephens, Youth Manager to get an idea of what data they would like to see included in the youth section), 4) the International School. Ms. Robinson suggested the Old Bellevue community (specifically the condo groups in that area – which are very diverse) and the Spiritridge Community Association group. Ms. English suggested: 1) her condo association might be a good group to meet with (large senior population), 2) the Islam church on 148<sup>th</sup> (Islamic Center) who she feels are isolated, and 3) the Russian contingency (but doesn’t know of any of their specific groups). Ms. Rasnack suggested contacting assisted living communities to meet with.

Ms. VonWald indicated that she has a database of the faith-based groups and it indicates which ones have organized senior groups that might be good to meet with.

Ms. O’Reilly will follow-up individually with each of you to get details to contact each group. She is anticipating doing 3-4 adult groups throughout April. She will send out a list of the groups that she will be meeting with to see if you want to participate. She will also send out the questions that she will use when meeting with the groups to see if you would like to give input on that.

## VETERANS & HUMAN SERVICES LEVY UPDATE

Ms. O’Reilly wanted to remind everyone that the Levy will be on the ballot in August or November (most likely November). You recently had a presentation by the Levy group regarding veteran issues. There are funds that are specifically for human services and some specifically for veterans.

King County staff is currently asking different groups what should be included in the Levy. They are looking for public comment via website also where you can specifically state what you would like to see funded. They will not ask for more funding because of the economy and are afraid that it wouldn’t pass if they asked for more funds. King County staff came to the Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) meeting and they gave comments. One of the 5 points that EHSF listed was to encourage them to better serve older adults with the levy dollars & better geographic distribution in east King County. She thinks that tomorrow is the last day to comment, but she will check and let you know.

Ms. Rasnack went to the Human Services Alliance meeting and she said that King County met with them. They were told that it is important to say more than “services for adults”. Be more specific. The services are divided into four categories and it is difficult to figure out where the adult services fit, but make sure you include the organizations that you see are already funded. Important to be sure that the current services offered should reach out to older adults also.

Ms. Thompson stated we should put together a letter saying what this group supports. She also stated that if they would like our support for this Levy then they should have something targeting the senior population. A letter should be done supporting increased access to health services, including adult day care and meals on wheels.

Ms. VonWald said that you could just get a motion to state that we will write a letter in support of the Levy and funding for older adults and will later get a committee together to decide what to include in the letter. Ms Thompson restated this motion.

Ms. Robinson wanted to amend the motion to say that the Bellevue Network on Aging will write a letter to support this Levy and then later we can get together to discuss what specifics to put in this letter. Mr. Katz seconded this amendment.

Ms. English wanted to make another amendment to the motion to say that the Levy funds should be equitably distributed geographically. This amendment was seconded by Ms. Robinson. Mr. Keeney thought that funds should be distributed where the needs are, not necessary based on geography.

So, the amendment is that the Bellevue Network on Aging will write a letter supporting the Veterans & Human Services Levy and the funds will be distributed with geographic equity. All supported this motion.

The second amendment is that the Bellevue Network on Aging will write a letter supporting the Veterans & Human Services Levy. All supported this motion.

The main motion is to write a letter to support the services for older adults. All supported this motion.

Ms. Kimball asked if the distribution of Levy money will remain the same with ½ to human services and ½ to veteran’s services. Ms. O’Reilly stated that the distribution will remain the same. She also reiterated that the Levy amount would stay the same with the state of economy.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Housing

The Housing Committee met with Dan Stroh, Planning Director to see if there is a long-term Housing plan for the aging population. He stated that there was currently no plan. Instead of planning specifically for seniors, universal design and affordable housing were discussed. ARCH again has the option to put money toward senior housing and they will designate 19% of ARCH funds for this. They are also talking about changing the zoning for detached dwelling units (DDU). Most homes in Bellevue won’t be able to do this but it will be possible with one acre lots. The City is also discussing the re-development of neighborhood commercial centers with affordable housing and this would be a great way to get senior housing. They are also talking about multi-family tax exemptions which typically are a 12 year deal that allow developers to develop with a 12 year tax exemptions. After 12 years the

rents jump up so drastically. If they are able to team with housing authorities to cover these years, it would cut down on the drastic jump in rents.

The Housing Committee made two motions.

The first motion is that the Bellevue Network on Aging will advocate for detached dwelling units in Bellevue. The motion was seconded. Ms. Thompson stated that she thought DDU's were fine but there should be conditions set. After discussion on this it was stated that the Bellevue Planning Commission will set the conditions which we are supporting. Mr. Keeney wanted to get up-to-date as to why the Bellevue Network on Aging is concerned about this issue? It was stated that: 1) DUU's help seniors to stay in their homes by having a DUU to subsidize cost and remain in their home, 2) a senior can move into the DUU and rent out their home, or 3) allows for seniors to have an additional dwelling unit for a caretaker. All were in favor of this motion except for one member passed on the vote.

The second motion was that the Bellevue Network on Aging advocate for universal design for Bellevue neighborhood commercial centers that would support senior housing. The motion was seconded. The presentation on universal design was fascinating and exciting. It allows a piece of property to be developed so that it is sustained from young children to seniors. There wouldn't have to be any remodeling (wider doorways, step-less entries, etc.). They can't mandate this concept in single family homes but encourage it. This universal design motion was passed unanimously.

#### b. Outreach

Ms. Grote reported that Liz (code enforcement), Nuri (fire dept.) and Tim (police dept.) met talking about the 911 calls (frequent flyers). Liz stated that her job involves a lot of the hoarders where they can't safely get inside their homes. It is a huge fire hazard. Nuri in the Fire Dept. gets frequent calls that are not emergencies (one person has called 100 times). Trying to educate and get information out to people to stop unnecessary 911 calls. There is a possibility of quarterly meetings on this topic including Fire, Police, and 911 dispatchers to talk about caller issues and share information. Tim asked us to come up with specific questions regarding their callers and then he will get the data compiled to see how many senior callers they get. Then they can work on getting them resources so that they don't call 911.

#### c. Advocacy

Ms. Thompson reported that they sent a letter from Bellevue & Kirkland to our legislators to fund the Senior Citizens Services Act and continue to fund Adult Day Health. There were supposed to be nine members attending Senior Lobby Day in Olympia but with the snow they did not attend. Only 60 of 300 registered for this event showed because of snow. Aging and Disability Services (ADS) stated that there will be a second Senior Lobby Day on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. They are making appointments with legislators that we can tag along with. Mr. Katz stated that the 41<sup>st</sup> District is meeting on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and we should attend. They will be meeting in Newcastle (10:00-11:30) and Mercer Island (1:30-3:00). It would be great if members can attend each event and write letters. Ms. VonWald will let you know when the ADS appointments are after she hears from them. Then you can tell her whether you can go with them and she will let them know.

Ms. Thompson said vulnerable adult legislation regarding exploitation has a good chance of passing. She doesn't know how far the adult family home legislation will go. The Senate has changed how the fee was going to be set (\$250/home). This is an improvement over \$100/home but nursing homes get \$297/bed and so she wrote Ross Hunter about this. He sent a response saying that he will advocate for a higher fee.

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Ms. Robinson asked about the online posting by DSHS about adult family home violations. Arthur Sullivan had talked about having it on the ARCH website. Ms. Robinson said that DSHS is posting it. Ms. VonWald stated that she believes that ARCH is planning on posting the link to DSHS on their website. Ms. Thompson stated that they are now required to post violations in adult family homes. There is also a current bill on referral agencies.

Ms. Robinson asked whether the Advocacy Committee is advocating for increased bed fees for adult family homes. Ms. Thompson stated that they were concerned about protecting vulnerable adults but they haven't taken an official position. Ms. Rasnack stated that the Advocacy Committee is concerned about this issue and is monitoring it but hasn't taken an official position. If there was some action to be taken then it would come to the network. Ms. O'Reilly asked whether anyone knew anything more about the Senior Citizen Services Act budget for the next biennium. It is on the agenda of the EHSF Advocacy Committee and they were wondering whether it was time to write a letter in support of this. It was cut this biennium and is being funding with reserves. But they want to support it for this biennium.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

### a. Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative

Ms. Seltzer passed out the Easy Rider Annual Report which is self-explanatory. The EERC presented information to the Bellevue Human Services Commission this past Tuesday night. Their information was well received and they discussed transportation on the eastside for seniors and disabled. They talked about how to keep it funded and funding sources.

Ms. VonWald talked about the Dial-A-Ride program put on by Hopelink. You get a ride from home to designated sites and it is free (for those over sixty or low-income). They are expanding the number of stops available and N. Bellevue Community Center and the hospitals are current stops. They will be at the Senior Health Fair. It is only funded through June. They are looking to get ridership up to get the numbers they need to advocate for new funding.

Ms. O'Reilly brought up the King County Mobility Coalition. The county is looking at how to coordinate mobility better. New groups are forming in different areas of the county. The large King County group meets quarterly and there are subcommittees that are going on all of the time. People have to go to Harborview Hospital to be assessed for ACCESS ridership. King County Metro gave them money a while back to have a Transportation Resource Center there also. If people don't qualify for ACCESS then it offers them other resources. They developed maps for certain sub regions of King County. They are currently developing one for the eastside. It will show alternative resources besides the bus routes to get around the eastside.

Mr. Katz stated that he saw Senior Services Volunteer Transportation and wondered why it only served Seattle. Ms. O'Reilly stated that this program does provide services county-wide for transportation to medical appointments.

### b. City of Bellevue Initiatives – None.

### c. Eastside Human Services Forum

Ms. O'Reilly stated that EHSF has Work Group meetings that you can all attend (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 9:00am-11:00am at Bellevue City Hall in Room 1E-120). At the EHSF Board meeting (March 16<sup>th</sup>) we would like to have a dialogue with the leadership of United Way of King County in regard to their priorities. Some of the non-profit agencies are questioning some of the priorities that United Way has chosen and think they are limiting. We want to build bridges with the United Way and make sure we have a good connection.

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## OTHER BOARDS/COMMISSIONS REPORTS

Ms. VonWald stated that the Aging and Disability Services receive Federal funding and then distribute it to the community. They are updating the Area Plan which is done every four years county-wide. They are going out to community groups and they have contacted her regarding meeting with members of the community. They will come out to N. Bellevue Community Center and talk to people directly.

## STAFF REPORT

Ms. VonWald thanked Bob, Merle, Dick, and Blake for volunteering to staff the Active Senior Fair on Saturday, March 12th. We are able to set up on Friday afternoon, so Darrion will be able to do that. We are still looking for volunteers for the last shift from 2:00-3:30. This will also include picking up materials afterward that she will come and pick up them up.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Katz contacted Rob McKenna's office to have him attend a Network meeting. Because he will be running for governor his calendar is filling up quickly because everyone wants him to talk with them. We need to think if there is any issues that we would like him to include in his campaign. On April 1<sup>st</sup> we will know when/if they have a date scheduled in May or June.

Ms. Robinson stated that two people want to be Network non-voting members. Ms. VonWald stated that the Bylaws Committee will be addressing this and they haven't met yet. An e-mail was sent out to check on the committee member's availability. It was decided that this committee would meet after this meeting or e-mail their availability to set a time.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Patti Mann introduced herself to the Network and stated that she has been a Bellevue resident all of her life and loves this city with a passion. She is very interested in public safety and believes it is the foundation in Bellevue. Because of her interests she will be running for Bellevue City Council. She loves seeing the involvement in the community and is interested in the older adult community.

## UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. VonWald stated that Gwen Rousseau will be presenting the 2010 census data on April 7<sup>th</sup>. We might possibly have a presentation by Senior Services on "Aging Your Way" and a possible presentation by Rob McKenna. It might be nice to have King County Mobility and EERC presentation to update everyone and how we fit in. There is also a new initiative that will be launched on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the second lobby day in Olympia called the Elder Economic Securities Initiative (initiative of the Washington Area Agencies on Aging & the State Council on Aging). She will send you a link to the information since it is complicated. But it basically is a study as to how you can people afford to survive in Washington (sectioned out by region).

## ADJOURN

Chair Rasnack adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.